

system to subjugate this abuse and repress this  
 corruption of  
 state power. The protective-tariff system is simply  
 an elaborate  
 system by which certain interests inside of a  
 country get con-  
 trol of legislation in order to tax their fellow-  
 citizens for their  
 own benefit. Some of the victims claim to be taken  
 " into the  
 steal," and if they can make enough trouble for the  
 clique in power,  
 they can force their own admission. That only  
 teaches all that  
 the great way to succeed in the pursuit of wealth  
 is to organize  
 a steal of some kind and get inside of it. The  
 pension system  
 in the United States is an abuse which has  
 escaped from con-  
 trol. There is no longer any attempt to cope with  
 it. It is the  
 share of the " common man" in the great system  
 of public  
 plunder. " Graft" is only a proof of the wide extent  
 to which  
 this lesson to get into the steal is learned. It only  
 shows that  
 the corrupt use of legislation and political power  
 has affected  
 the mores. Every one must have his little sphere  
 of plunder  
 and especial advantage. This conviction and taste  
 becomes so  
 current that it affects all new legislation. The  
 legislators do  
 not doubt that it is reasonable and right to enact  
 laws which  
 provide favor for special interests, or to practice  
 legislative  
 strikes on insurance companies, railroads,  
 telephone companies,  
 etc. They laugh at remonstrance as out of date and  
 " unpracti-  
 cal." The administrators of life-insurance  
 companies, savings  
 banks, trusts, etc., proceed on the belief that men  
 in positions  
 of power and control will use their positions for  
 their own  
 advantage. They think that that is only common  
 sense. " What  
 else are we here for ?" It is the supreme test of a  
 system of  
 government whether its machinery is adequate

for repressing  
the selfish undertakings of cliques formed on  
special interests  
and saving the public from raids of plunderers. The  
modern  
democratic states fail under this test. There is not  
a great state  
in the world which was not democratized in the  
nineteenth  
century. There is not one of them which did not  
have great  
financial scandals before the century closed.  
Financial scandal  
is the curse of all the modern parliamentary states  
with a wide  
suffrage. They give liberty and security, with  
open chances  
for individual enterprise, from which results  
great individual